



# Global Intelligence Review

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## AMER

**United States: Exercise heightened vigilance in proximity to Tesla facilities amid spate of violent left-wing protests.** From 10-19 March, multiple Tesla facilities, including in Las Vegas, San Francisco, Kansas City, and Seattle, were targeted by a series of coordinated left-wing protests and acts of vandalism. Demonstrators smashed vehicle windows, threw red paint on buildings, and spray-painted slogans. In Las Vegas, at least five Tesla vehicles were damaged, including two that were set on fire using Molotov cocktails, and the word “RESIST” was spray-painted on the facility’s doors. Witnesses reported hearing gunshots during the incident. Similar attacks occurred in Kansas City where two Cybertrucks were set ablaze, and in Seattle, where four Cybertrucks were damaged by fire. On 20 March, the FBI confirmed it had opened an investigation into the incidents. These actions have grown increasingly aggressive, moving beyond peaceful demonstration to targeted destruction of property, suggesting a heightened risk environment for Tesla personnel, assets, and nearby businesses.

**Peru: 30-day state of emergency (SoE) declared in response to dramatic surge in violent crime, underscoring the country’s deepening security crisis.** On 17 March, an SoE decree was implemented in Lima and Callao provinces in response to escalating organized crime violence, and galvanized by the high-profile murder of popular singer Paul Flores. The rapid increase in crime is evidenced by the 459 homicides reported between 1 January-16 March, as well as the 1,909 extortion cases recorded in January alone. The SoE declaration enabled one thousand soldiers to be deployed to patrol Lima’s streets, particularly around key areas, such as train and bus stations, to assist police in combatting the surge in violent crime. Additionally, the SoE suspends civil liberties such as freedom of assembly and movement, enables



police to search homes without warrants, and allows indefinite detention without judicial recourse. While the military's deployment may help to temporarily suppress violent crime, historical patterns suggest it is likely to result in human rights violations, heightened civilian distrust, and leave the root causes of crime unaddressed. Travelers should employ enhanced precaution within the highlighted provinces as well as the state at large to avoid being the victim of crime or encounters with law enforcement.

**Honduras: The expansion of coca production in 2024 foreshadows increasing cartel influence in the region.** In 2024, coca cultivation in Honduras expanded to 16 municipalities, marking a significant increase from previous years. This surge underscores the country's evolving role from its classification as merely a transit point to a significant active producer of cocaine within the global supply chain. Notably, between January - March 2024, authorities eradicated approximately 543,000 coca plants, surpassing the total eradicated in all of 2021. This trend aligns with the broader pattern within Central America, reflecting the nearly 47% of northern areas within the region, including parts of Honduras, Guatemala, and Belize that possess ideal conditions for coca cultivation. The proliferation of coca farming in Honduras is likely to incur increased activity from international drug cartels, which will likely cause ensuing heightened violence.



## EMEA

**Turkey: Avoid pro-democracy demonstrations in urban centers over the coming weeks following the divisive arrest of Istanbul mayor.** On 19 March, police arrested Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu and nearly one hundred individuals, including journalists, activists, businessmen and politicians, as part of an investigation into alleged corruption and links to terrorism. This followed the revocation of Imamoglu's collegiate degree from Istanbul University on 18 March due to unsubstantiated claims of irregularities in his transfer from Kyrenia Girne American University in north Cyprus. In turn, this action disqualified Imamoglu as an eligible candidate for the presidency, as a degree is a prerequisite for running in elections under Turkish law. Despite the revocation of his degree and arrest, Imamoglu won the Republican People's Party's (CHP) presidential nomination in their primary on 23 March, for the elections slated to take place in 2028. Under Imamoglu's leadership, the CHP has presented the largest challenge to the dominance of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) as well as his personal power. Imamoglu was projected to potentially win the presidency in 2028.

The major crackdown follows significant losses for the AKP in local elections in 2024 and declining popularity ratings for Erdogan himself. Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian tendencies have kept him in power for 22 years – although frustration appears to be growing within the electorate. Following Imamoglu's arrest, thousands of people rallied in Istanbul on 19 March against perceived corruption. Demonstrations quickly intensified and proliferated across urban centers, including the capital Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, Bursa, and Ekisehir.

Authorities banned all public gatherings until at least 27 March in Istanbul province preemptively when they arrested Imamoglu and have since deployed heavy handed dispersal measures against protestors, including tear gas, water cannons, and



rubber bullets. The removal of Imamoglu as a challenger in the 2028 presidential election would likely cement Erdogan's authoritarian control over Turkey. Conversely, it could have the opposite effect and lead to increased outspoken popular support for Imamoglu, potentially propelling him to the presidency in 2028. This mirrors the roadmap that brought Erdogan to power after becoming the mayor of Istanbul, where he faced similar politically motivated charges by the military influenced regime.

Rallies in response to the arrest of Imamoglu have taken place in at least 55 of Turkey's 81 provinces. Demonstrations are likely to continue in close proximity to major government buildings, landmarks, or squares. Potential flashpoints include the Metropolitan Municipality building in Sarachane Park, Taksim Square in Istanbul, and the CHP Ankara Provincial Headquarters, and Ministry of Justice in Ankara. Monitor local media to stay abreast of ongoing demonstrations. Avoid all protests due to the heightened potential for incidental risk to bystanders amid the heavy-handed suppression measures used by security forces, which are liable to intensify over the coming days.

**Somalia: Surveil developments in Al-Shabaab offensive in the Lower Shabelle region against state forces following bombing of Presidential convoy.** On 18 March, a bomb in the Hamar-Jajab area of the capital Mogadishu was triggered destroying a civilian-populated building and damaging surrounding cars, including the presidential convoy. Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohammed – who survived the attack – was reportedly traveling to the Middle Shabelle region of Hirshabelle state, where the army is coordinating an offensive against the Al-Shabaab militant group who has been engaging in a three-week-old, renewed assault. Al-Shabaab is an Al-Qaeda linked Islamist organization that has been combatting the Somali federal government for over 15 years. They operate mainly



out of rural areas in central and southern Somalia but regularly carry out attacks on civilian and military targets in urban centers. Currently, they are engaging in intense clashes with the Somali army in various towns surrounding Mogadishu and attempting to entrench their presence within central Somalia. This has raised fears of a potential imminent Al-Shabaab occupation of Mogadishu. The convoy bombing was notable given it was Al-Shabaab's first time targeting the President directly since 2014, signaling an increased capacity for high-level targeted attacks. Stakeholders should carefully monitor developments over the coming weeks for any strategic movements that may lead to expanding Al-Shabaab control in and around Mogadishu.

**Armenia/Azerbaijan: Peace agreement is in last stages of finalization cautiously strengthening security forecast for the region.** On 13 March, negotiators announced the long-awaited finalization of the text which will formally end decades of open hostilities over the ownership of a territory known as Nagorno-Karabakh. The area inside Azerbaijan was home to a sizeable ethnic-Armenian population and had been administered by Armenian separatists since the early 1990s – a security arrangement subsidized by Russia. A lightning 24-hour offensive in the Fall of 2023 resulted in Azerbaijan regaining control of the region, prompting the mass exodus of the area's ethnic Armenian population. While the two countries move forward to set a date for the signing ceremony, the last formal sticking point is the constitutional revision required by Armenia to remove references of territorial claims to regions inside of Azerbaijan – including Nagorno-Karabakh. While this agreement would provide a much-needed security framework for stability moving forward, it will not resolve the trauma and resentment within each population toward the other, which remains the underlying fuel to the conflict – and will take generations to heal. Therefore, although the peace agreement between the two countries would be a



significant step forward for regional stability in the Caucasus, further conflict between the two countries over the coming years cannot be ruled out.

**Hungary: Anti-LGBTQ legislation emblematic of intensifying regional trend of hostility to the Queer community.** On 18 March, a new law was passed to ban 'Pride' events and allow authorities to use facial recognition software to identify those who defy the law. This action continues Prime Minister Viktor Orban's campaign to limit the civil rights of LGBTQ persons via his contentious child protection legislation, which prohibits the 'depiction or promotion' of homosexuality to minors. Other countries in Eastern Europe such as Poland, Bulgaria, Slovakia, and Georgia have implemented similar laws that follow the Russian legislative model. Launched in 2013, the Russian 'Gay Propaganda Law' was expanded in 2022 and subsequently grew in popularity within the region. Budapest Pride is the largest and most prominent LGBTQ pride event in Hungary. This year the event is set to take place on 28 June and mark its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary – it is likely that festivities, in the tradition of Pride events being a form of protest, will continue in defiance of the law. LGBTQ travelers in Eastern Europe should remain informed of the local laws in effect, common enforcement mechanisms, and general public sentiment toward the queer community.

**Israel: Conflict with Hamas resumes after deadlock in ceasefire negotiations, raising the risk of lone-perpetrator terror attacks and threatening domestic stability.** On 18 March, The Israeli Defense Force (IDF) resumed warfare in Gaza by launching a major attack against Hamas militants using air strikes and limited ground forces – ultimately killing at least 400 Palestinians. Negotiations stalled between the groups as Israel has pushed for the immediate release of more hostages while Hamas remains staunch in their demand for the full physical withdrawal of the IDF



from Gaza before an exchange of hostages. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has claimed that the renewed assault is aimed at placing pressure on Hamas to capitulate and negotiations can continue under fire. The IDF has reportedly been planning a massive offensive and occupation of Gaza and the West Bank. The Israeli Defense Minister, Israel Katz, also threatened to annex the Gaza Strip if Hamas refuses to agree to the new ceasefire agreement. However, Israeli officials are split on any version of this plan, which would extend Israel's reservists and resources, in addition to incurring significant international and domestic reprimand.

Protests by Israeli citizens calling for a ceasefire have restarted already – and can be projected to grow in size as the conflict continues - threatening domestic stability. This risk remains particularly acute amid efforts by the prime minister to remove the head of the Shin Bet, Ronen Bar, and efforts to dismiss the attorney general. The risk of isolated lone-perpetrator attacks on Israelis by radicalized individuals upset by the resumption of hostilities has risen. As the conflict persists, there is a likelihood it will result in increased cross border hostilities with Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen. Ordnance from Hezbollah and the Houthis have already been launched at Israel.

Should the IDF go through with their extended occupation/annexation plans, it would likely leave Israel overextended due to the IDF already having expanded its military occupations in Lebanon, Syria, and the West Bank. As resources are increasing spread out, porous gaps in Israeli security are likely to be taken advantage of by individuals and groups to execute targeted terror attacks within Israel. However, a full invasion by a hostile state or militant group remains highly unlikely. Travelers should continue to monitor the tenor of all facets of the war and its possible expansion. It is advised to maintain a heightened sense of situational awareness while traveling within the wider region and to avoid any militarized zones.





**Syria: Lack of trust in HTS government among minority groups persists following the massacre of Alawites, suggests possibility of state splintering along ethnoreligious lines.** On 5 March, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) security forces carried out executions of Alawite civilians following violence against Sunni Muslims and security forces by pro-Assad insurgents. The Alawites are an ethnoreligious minority group that the Assad family were members of, and who many Syrians believe benefitted under Assad's regime. It is believed the insurgency's goal was to goad security forces into attacking Alawite civilians to increase its support base. Alawites have reported they no longer trust the government to protect them, even as de facto President Ahmed Al-Sharaa reaffirmed his pledge to protect ethnoreligious minorities and promised to investigate the killings.

On 17 March, security forces also clashed with Hezbollah and Lebanese soldiers in Lebanon after Hezbollah fighters were accused of attacking a patrol. Hezbollah was a major backer of Assad's regime and is liable to support an Alawite insurgency against the new government in order to restore its weapon smuggling routes to Iran as it attempts to rearm. The Alawite killings have further alienated the Druze, an ethnoreligious minority based in the south. On 1 March, clashes took place between Druze militias and HTS security forces south of Damascus. Shortly after on 11 March, the largest Druze military faction, Men of Dignity, signed a merger agreement with HTS security forces. However, the Druze community remains split over the merger. The spiritual leader of the Druze in Syria, Hikmat al-Hijri, rejected the agreement and has sought to maintain autonomy from the new government, which he deems as radical.

Kurds in northern Syria have also begun to protest the new constitution – which the HTS government announced on 13 March – as authoritarian. This could hinder the merger of HTS and the Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which has been Sharaa's largest achievement to date in bridging ethnoreligious divisions. If Sharaa



fails to punish those responsible for the killings of Alawite civilians and restore the Alawites trust in the HTS government, the massacre has the potential to nurture the beginning of a thriving pro-Assad/Alawite nationalist insurgency in the future. This could spiral into a cycle of attacks and revenge killings, which could drive the various ethnoreligious minorities within Syria to attempt to seek autonomy and rely on outside state, and non-state actors, to ensure their security. The situation remains fluid, and any progress towards a stable and unified country is incredibly fragile, as the chances of the country fracturing along ethnoreligious lines remaining high.

**The Sahel: Region labeled as epicenter of global terrorism for second consecutive year, driven by escalating jihadist violence, political instability, and the withdrawal of Western military forces.** In 2024, the Sahel region, located within Sub-Saharan Africa, experienced an alarming escalation in terrorist activity, accounting for over 51% of terror related deaths worldwide. This surge underscores the region's new status as the global hub for terrorism, as militant Islamist violence reaches record highs. The central Sahel countries – Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger – are grappling with entrenched jihadist insurgencies, primarily led by al-Qaeda-affiliated Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) and the Islamic State Sahel Province (IS Sahel). These groups have launched numerous high-casualty attacks in the central Sahel region, targeting state forces, militias, and civilians with increasing lethality. The security landscape in the area has been deteriorating since various military juntas in these nations seized power between 2020 and 2023. While the regimes promised to enhance security, they have largely failed to contain the escalating violence or dislodge endemic militancy. Similarly, reliance on Russian mercenaries has not yielded the desired stabilization, or the containment of Islamist militant groups in the region. The withdrawal of Western military forces, mainly French presence, has also contributed to the security vacuum, allowing jihadist



groups to operate more freely. This instability has not only deepened the insecurity within the Sahel but also poses a growing threat to neighboring West African and North African coastal nations, raising concerns about a broader regional destabilization. Internationally, the growing presence of jihadist groups in the Sahel also threatens Europe by fueling the migration crises, raising the risk of the radicalization of their own citizens, and providing a nearby base from which to launch terrorist attacks.



## **APAC**

**South Korea: Anticipate uptick in civil unrest in the coming weeks as acting President Han Duck Soo is reinstated ahead of impeachment verdict on former President Yoon Suk Yeol.** On 24 March, the Constitutional Court overturned acting President Han's impeachment – originally driven by his refusal to fill court vacancies critical to ruling on President Yoon Suk Yeol's impeachment. President Yoon was impeached in December 2024 after declaring martial law. Prime Minister Han subsequently assumed the office of the presidency but was also impeached over allegations of obstruction. Han's verdict comes days before the Constitutional Court is expected to deliver a verdict on Yoon's own impeachment. The ruling is expected to incite a mass mobilization of protesters in the capital Seoul, where tens of thousands have previously rallied in support for, or against, Yoon. In anticipation of the ruling, police plan to deploy over 14,000 officers to Seoul, enforce protest-free zones, and will shut down key metro stations around judicial precincts. Han's reinstatement signals potential judicial leniency toward Yoon but does not cement the projected outcome. If Yoon is absolved, it would likely stoke substantial civil society anger over perceived institutional corruption. If Yoon is removed, a 60-day snap election is constitutionally mandated and unrest amongst his supporters will be triggered. Travelers should remain abreast of news regarding the impending impeachment ruling and any planned protests. Transportation delays and civil unrest can be anticipated regardless of the decision.

**Japan: Exercise caution and expect disruption over the coming days in southern regions amid ongoing wildfires.** On 21 March, wildfires in western Japan forced the evacuation of 2,800 residents across the cities of Okayama, Imabari, and Aso. Wind speeds have reached up to 72 kilometers per hour – approximately 45 miles per hour



- contributing to the rapid spread of the fires across mountainous and into residential areas. The fires have destroyed at least ten houses and have burned more than 250 hectares of land so far. Over 800 firefighters, the deployment of military helicopters, and the Self-Defense Forces, have been mobilized to contain the fires. The incident highlights Japan's growing exposure to climate-driven risks, particularly as warmer temperatures and dry conditions intensify the frequency and scale of wildfires in regions previously less prone to such disasters. Follow all official directives while traveling in the impacted regions.